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UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FOR LIFE AND WORK

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE

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NEWS LETTER No. 3.

8th July 1931

(Reprint invited. Acknowledgement will be appreciated.)

GENERAL INFORMATION.

News-Letter.

Continued interest has been shown in our News-Letter. Extra copies have been asked for from many countries, doubling our mailing-list to four thousand. A Church office, for example, from Baden declared its readiness:

(*a*) to quote regularly in its paper " The Social Work of the Church " (circulation of 13,000 copies) information from the News-Letter;

(*b*) to distribute 600 copies of the News-Letter directly to interested organizations and personalities, including 189 individuals, 130 students' associations (in Freiburg, Heidelberg, Karlsruhe, Mannheim), 107 clergy and theological candidates, free (socialist) trade-unions (in Freiburg, Heidelberg, Karlsruhe, Mannheim and Pforzheim), Christian trade-unions' associations (town and district cartels), evangelical secretary's associations (evangelical workers' secretaries).

The " Evangelical Press Union of Wurtemberg " has offered to send information from the News-Letter to 150 daily papers and the religious press in South Germany. Further, it has asked for 1050 copies.

The " Evangelical Press Bureau " of the Rhineland has asked for 150 copies.

A social pastor in Thuringia wrote for 100 copies for pastors, employers and employees; also 18 theological faculties, 25 social faculties and 48 newspapers in Germany

asked for copies. From other countries, requests came from 22 faculties, 41 societies and 21 newspapers.

In France, the " Religious Press Bureau of the Protestant Federation " undertakes to send to the principal Protestant French papers the publications issued by the International Christian Social Institute relating to its activities.

The paper " Evangile et Liberté ", the official organ of the " Union des Eglises Réformées " (circulation of 1000 copies), in its June 24th number, contained an article by its Geneva correspondent giving information from the News-Letter regarding the work of the Institute.

The " Netherlands Christian Press Bureau " is ready to circulate information from the News-Letter to 140 daily papers in Holland and to a number of leading papers in the Dutch colonies.

Members of the Stockholm movement in Bulgaria, Denmark, Danzig, Esthonia, Latvia, Austria, Poland, Rumania and Holland have been asked by interested persons to circulate a larger number of News-Letters to Church circles in their countries.

The " Schweizerische Rundschau ", a Catholic paper edited by Mgr. A. Gisler, H. v. Matt, L. Schneller and Dr. C. Doka, publishes in its May number a full reprint of Mr. O. Bauhofer's report in News Letter No. 2 on the theological basis of the social scientific work of the Institute with the following commentary:

> " Such teaching shows that the modern problems of state and economic policy are bound to bring all people together who have fundamentally one common starting point. This fact makes it obvious how Evangelical circles, which affirm a positive Christianity, take their stand against economic *laissez faire* and thus take a lead in winning back the lost masses. "

The pamphlet " The Churches and Present-Day Economic Problems ".

Over 400 copies have been bought by pastors in Switzerland. Church leaders, employers' societies and trade-unions in Germany have between them bought 1200 copies. 1000 copies have been circulated between the other European countries at the request of Church and University leaders for use in colleges and study groups. Others in Norway, Canada, South Africa, Persia, Egypt, the Hoover War Library in California, and the Fuh Tan University in China have asked for copies. A Committee representing the Missions' Board in Latin America urges us to publish a Spanish and Portuguese edition. Its letter adds: " Please do not start your work by omitting the Spanish-speaking countries, which numerically and in many other ways are of great importance in considering the present world situation ". And: " We have here on this American continent one of the greatest international problems and I earnestly hope that your Institute will begin its life aright, and not as so many others by neglecting the great Spanish-speaking world ".

The Executive Committee of the Universal Christian Council in Cambridge.

The executive sessions at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, beginning on August 25th, will continue until August 29th. The " Reorganization Commission " meets on August 22nd; and the " Committee on Cooperation with the Orthodox Church " on August 31st.

Members of the commissions on " Youth ", the " Christian Press " and " The Churches and Labour ", present at the Executive, will meet on August 24th. Further steps in reorganization will be taken in connection with the relationship of the commissions to the Institute in Geneva, to make the work of the Institute and the commissions more effective. Summaries of the commissions' reports are in preparation and will be circulated to members of the Executive Committee this month. Mr. Steele conferred in London with the Rev. P.T.R. Kirk regarding the programme of this meeting.

Dr. Henry Atkinson returned to America early in June in connection with the work of the American section and returns in the middle of July.

The " Faith and Order " Meeting.

The Continuation Committee of the " Faith and Order " Conference meets at High Leigh in Hertfordshire, from August 18th to 21st. The date and place of the 2nd World Conference on " Faith and Order ", its composition and agenda will be taken up.

The Conference of the " World Alliance ".

The 8th International Meeting of the World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches meets at Cambridge from September 1st to 5th. Each of the 33 national councils will send delegates. In addition to holding its business sessions, the Alliance will take for the main subject of discussion " The christian attitude towards world peace ", with special reference to (1) national security; (2) liberty and fundamental rights (including the rights of minorities); and (3) the conflict between national and international loyalties.

A new and important feature of the Conference will be the presence, as additional delegates, of young people who are leading youth movements in the Churches of their different countries.

Social Science Course in Berne.

From July 29th to August 15th, the Faculties of Law, Evangelical, and Old-Catholic Theology are organising at the University of *Berne* a holiday course in social science. The lectures will cover the problem of *ethics and economics* from various points of view. A number of leading sociologists, politicians and philosophers such as W. Sombart, P. Häberlin, Reichsgerichtspräsident a.D. Dr. Simons, W. Hellpach, and a number of theologians as G. Wünsch, O. Bauhofer, etc., will speak. An excursion to Geneva with a visit to the Institute (Professor Keller will give an address on this occasion) as well as to the International Labour Office is planned. For further information please apply to the Director of the course, Professor Dr. Töndury, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, or to the secretary, Dr. Holzer, Aebistr. 7, Berne.

A Celebrated Encyclical.

On the occasion of the 40th jubilee of the " Workers Encyclical of Leo XIII *Rerum novarum* " Pope Pius XI has issued a new social encyclical *" Quadragesimo anno"*. We do not want to make here any commentary on behalf of this manifestation, but it is a real pleasure to us to draw special attention to this highly important document, which, together with the *Rerum Novarum*, is without any doubt one of the most important testimonies of " social Christianity ", for which also the Stockholm Movement is striving.

RESEARCH.

Non-Industrial Child Labour.

The most important event of the last three months' work is the action undertaken by the Research Department in collaboration with the Department for Social and Economic Research and Counsel of the International Missionary Council as well as with the World's Committee of the Y.W.C.A.'s and Y.M.C.A.'s. In view of the discussions at the recent XVth International Labour Conference on the international regulation of non-industrial Child Labour, the Research Department and the above-mentioned three other organisations submitted the following requests and suggestions to the International Labour Organisation:

" At a time when the International Labour Conference is about to meet, charged with the drawing up of regulations for the protection of children employed in non-industrial occupations with a view to the possible conclusion of an international agreement involving the enactment of adequate legislation in the participating countries, the undersigned Organisations respectfully submit to the International Labour Organisation the following statement with the request for careful consideration:

(1) They wish to point out the deplorable consequences, both moral and material, to the child, the family and society generally, of the premature employment of children often greatly aggravated by the absence of sufficient control;

(2) They wish to state that, in their opinion, it is necessary to study, with a view to their elimination, the primary causes of the imposition of premature work on the child, and to express their firm conviction that it is the duty of society to take energetic steps, as a matter of principle —and not merely in particular cases as a reaction against isolated economic and industrial phenomena —to protect children from the excesses of industrialism and the evils, material, moral and spiritual, resulting therefrom;

(3) They desire ardently that the International Labour Conference will take definite action with a view to the preparation of a Draft Convention which will complete satisfactorily for children

occupied in non-industrial occupations the measures of protection already adopted concerning children employed in industry;

(4) They consider that the efforts made to raise the age for the admission of children to employment in general, reinforced by the raising of the school leaving age, should, at the earliest possible moment, be embodied in an international agreement;

(5) They wish, finally, to draw the attention of the International Labour Organisation to the following questions which have earlier in the year been officially presented by the Churches in a number of countries to their respective governments, requesting them to see to it that they are taken into account in connection with the projected international agreement on the age of admission of children to employment in non-industrial occupations:

(*a*) To what extent may child labour in the non-industrial professions be justified, and for what reasons ?

(*b*) Have the restrictions put on child labour in industries and agriculture caused a repercussion on the employment of children in non-industrial work by giving it greater extension, and what is the proof of such a repercussion ?

(*c*) Which are the professions or occupations of the parents of the children employed in non-industrial occupations ? What is the standard of living of the parents ? How far does the money made by the children who are employed in non-industrial occupations form an indispensable part of the family income, and how far could this be made up in some other way ?

(*d*) What influence has general unemployment on the non-industrial work of children ?

(*e*) How far would greater restriction, or complete suppression of the employment of children in non-industrial occupations be justified, in view of present general unemployment ? To what extent would such measures make it possible for the unemployed to find work ?

(*f*) Could the work done by children employed in non-industrial occupations be performed by adults ? Which obstacles present themselves ?

(*g*) When fixing the age of admission for children into non-industrial work, could not at the same time a raising of the age of school attendance be taken into consideration ? What are the possibilities in this respect ?

(*h*) What are the good results that national and international regulation of child labour in industry and agriculture has produced and how far may the experiences in that field be a help in the regulation of child labour in non-industrial occupations ?

What are the difficulties in the application of the regulation of child labour in industry and agriculture, and what conclusions can be drawn therefrom for the regulation both national and international of child labour in the non-industrial professions ? »

Monsieur Albert Thomas, the Director of the International Labour Office, has forwarded these declarations to the appropriate authorities and arranged a meeting between the representatives of the christian organisations and the chairman of the Commission dealing with the question of Child Labour during the last International Labour Conference.

The Labour Conference has meanwhile unanimously adopted the proposal of the Commission which included in part the suggestions of the Christian organisations, and decided that the question of the international regulation of non-industrial Child Labour be included in the Agenda of the next session in 1932.

Cooperation with Clergy, Employers and Workers.

As a result of participation in a social training course for clergy as well as from contacts with students from Baden and Württemberg (Germany), employers' and workers' representatives in the Saar district Dr Schönfeld gets the impression that the questions and results of the work as reported in the study pamphlet "The Churches and Present-Day Economic Problems" corresponds with the concrete questions and demands which clergy of today have to face in their parish work. Also by leaders in industry these studies are considered as an important contribution to a radical change in economic and social policy. A number of valuable suggestions regarding the economic and social needs of the farming industry have grown out of these contacts for immediate consideration and study by the Institute. Impressions of the special conditions of life and work among the industrial workers in the Saar district, were also very important for these studies. In this district the majority of the workmen still own their houses with a small plot of land in the villages, i. e., under working and living conditions an exact study of which appears important for reforming the conditions of labour.

At the II. Congress of the International Union of Protestant Workers' Secretaries in Essen (Germany) Dr. Schönfeld lectured on the special tasks of the Stockholm Movement in the struggle against unemployment all over the world. This was an opportunity for creating in these circles a deeper understanding of international social work among the Churches.

British-German Conference.

Under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Chichester the III. British-German Theologians' Conference was held at Chichester from March 23rd to 28th. The meeting was organised along the lines of the previous British-German and East-West Conferences of the Theologians' Commission. The subject of the discussions was "*Corpus Christi*" from its various theological and religious points of view. All the lectures have been published in German in the July number of the "Theologischen Blätter" (editor: Professor D. Karl Ludwig Schmidt), and in English in "Theology" (editor: Dean E. G. Selwyn). The Institute was represented by its theological collaborator, Mr. O. Bauhofer, who gave a paper on Christian Ethics. This participation of a representative of the Institute gave an opportunity for talking over the question of closer collaboration between the Research Department of the Institute and the Theologians' Commission. On both sides it was recognised that the Institute should have a free hand to invite theologians for collaboration in cases of special theological problems arising within the Institute's work. The Institute should be free to choose these collaborators from the Theologians' Commission or outside, if necessary.

Relationships between Church and Industry.

As mentioned in the last issue of the News Letter, the Swedish collaborator of the Institute, Rev. N. Ehrenström, made a study tour to England. During this trip

he was able to collect valuable material for the inquiry into the Relationships between Church and Industry. In order to study the situation in that regard in England he got into contact with the Christian Social Council, the Committees for social and industrial questions of various Churches, as well as with the Christian organisations which have been at work on this field (" Industrial Christian Fellowship " and others). Furthermore, in several towns in the South and Midlands Rev. Ehrenström had interviews with Christian social workers, and often found a great interest in employers and workmen and under-standing for a closer cooperation between Church and Industry. With a view to closer collaboration with the Institute exchange of publications, the creation of study groups, etc., are proposed. In this connection Rev. Ehrenström found a deep interest in the pamphlet " The Churches and Present-Day Economic Problems " and a willingness to study the problems outlined therein.

Pastor M. Mackay, Budapest, who has been sent by the Hungarian Reformed Church as a collaborator to the Institute for half a year, has studied the special forms and causes of unemployment. His report will be used in the preparations for the study conference on unemployment in Hungary and will, for that purpose, be submitted to the Hungarian Churches.

Furthermore, Pastor M. Mackay and Pastor J. von Ferencz of Cluj-Kolozsar (the latter has been sent to the Institute for a shorter time by the Hungarian Unitarian Church), have written together a small brochure in Hungarian which is intended to make the Stockholm Movement and its work more widely known in the Hungarian Protestant Churches.

EXTENSION AND EDUCATION.

Following the meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris the General Secretary for Extension gave lectures in France. He first spoke at the Russian Orthodox Academy in Paris, where Professor Bulgakoff will lecture on social questions; he then went on to Nîmes, and, lastly, he addressed the Theological Faculty at Montpellier University.

In May Dr. Keller paid an extended visit to Eastern Europe where he lectured in about twelve Orthodox and Protestant Faculties and addressed several Church meetings. At Athens Professor Alivisatos had arranged for two lectures at the Orthodox Faculty of the University. This gave, not only an opportunity to speak about the Institute, but also to discuss the problems of the relation of the western world to the Orthodox. Some very useful contacts are being established by youth work, social activities of the Church and joint studies on theological questions. The Metropolitan of Athens as well as the members of the Faculty attended the meeting.

At Sofia Professor Zankow had kindly arranged for lectures. Metropolitan Stephan of Sofia presided over a big public meeting. The œcumenical movement is gaining

ground in the East, even in these agrarian countries, since the economic crisis has affected them also, causing unemployment and distress.

This was, for instance, evident in Bucarest where the Patriarch of Roumania is trying to bring the need for social work before his church and the monasteries. However, the Stockholm Movement will not only have to fight against indifference among the clergy in the small provincial towns, but also against opposition from certain groups. The effects of the economic crisis on Eastern Europe are not so much found in unemployment, but rather in lack of capital, which again is caused by a stagnation of the home market. But there is also a positive effect in so far as the people are becoming more alive to social need and its problems. This is especially the case in Transylvania. Here visits were paid to the Metropolitan and the Protestant Churches. An active interest in the present social problems has recently sprung up, for example, in the Seminar work of the Theological Academy of Klausenburg, where about 200 students attended the lecture of the General Secretary.

In Budapest the bishops and leading clergy had been especially invited to attend the public lectures in the Academy. Here, again, the question of closer cooperation with the Institute and of calling together study groups was discussed.

On his way to Belgrade a visit was made to Carlowitz, where the emigrant Russian Orthodox bishops had their Synod under the chairmanship of Metropolitan Antonius. In Belgrade, where the Orthodox Whitsuntide was being celebrated, discussions took place with the patriarchs and representatives of the Church. Some of the bishops are planning to take up home mission work. There are prospects that the plan of sending an Orthodox collaborator to the Institute will be realised.

On the visit to Novi Sad with Bishop Ireneus, as well as to the monastery, Kolin, opportunity was given for a better understanding of the social problems of the country. Owing to the depreciation of the home-market and lack of capital, unemployment is felt more than ever before.

The social work of the Church in these Eastern countries mainly seems to be in the realm of Home Mission, welfare work for the innumerable orphans, sick, needy, old and homeless people.

Also in Hungary lectures were given at two provincial colleges; at the Lutherian Faculty of Sopron, which is part of the University of Fünfkirchen and at the Calvinistic Faculty at Papa. It is hoped that as a result of these lectures small study groups and seminars may result.

The last address during this journey was given at the Evangelical Theological Faculty of Vienna University, where there are about 200 students and visitors from most of the Balkan countries enrolled.

Through this journey it has, for the first time, been possible to discuss the problems of the Stockholm Movement, not only in more general meetings, but more intimately in the Universities and Faculties, and to interest professors as well as students. These circles seem especially able to take up the problems of the Movement, to study

them scientifically, and to discuss them in study groups, and thereby to carry them later into the life of the Church. Whereas, there are ample social courses, most varied in character, in Central Europe, as yet little has been done to study within the churches the present social problems of Eastern Europe.

The Economic Society of St. Gallen had invited the Bishop of St. Gallen together with Dr. Keller for a lecture on " Christianity and Man as an Economic Factor ". Both these lectures have been printed.

Besides the necessity for research work the Institute sees more and more the need for its educational task; it has to assist in educating future social leaders of the various Churches. These ought to know, not only the general problems of interest to the œcumenical movement, but also the theoretical as well as the scientific problems.

Therefore a plan of Dr. Keller, which was already submitted to the Theological Faculty of the Geneva University some three years ago, has lately taken more definite shape. It is planned to found an œcumenical seminar in Geneva and to introduce by holiday courses the problems of the œcumenical movement to the students. Geneva seems especially appropriate, these five Christian world organisations having headquarters there, it is the centre of unique information material, and, it offers in various other respects, favourable conditions for the creation of such a summer school.

To assure the academic character of the seminar it is planned to put it under the patronage of the Theological Faculty of Geneva. Its programme will not only bring forward the collaboration with the Christian world organisations and the international social work of the Churches, but also in a general way, the problems of the youth movement, the social work of the Missions, the promotion of peace through the Churches. Besides the general courses it is planned to have as an extra curriculum addresses by visiting lecturers, for which the outstanding representatives of the main theological and social movements of today will be invited. The teaching staff of the seminary would include representatives of the collaborating Christian organisations, as well as professors who will be specially invited by the commission for certain courses.

Dr. Keller submitted a plan to the representatives of the Faculty of Geneva and the five international Christian Organisations regarding study courses and it was agreed to continue the preparations for this proposed seminar.

On the invitation of the International Conference on Church Finance Dr. Keller gave an address in Edinburgh on " The Social and Church Needs of the Continent and the Creation of a Credit Organization ».

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Stockholm.** An international Christian quarterly review of 96 pages, in three languages, on the social activities of the churches. Annual subscription 10/6 or $2.50 from all booksellers. *The Oxford University Press, London,* or *The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, U.S.A.*

Summary of Contents of Issue No. 3, July 1931.

The Application of Christian Principles to Social and Industrial Problems.
Lord Bishop of Woolwich, London.

Rationalisierung und Arbeitslosigkeit.
Dr. M. SCHLENKER, Nordwestliche Gruppe des Vereins Deutscher Eisen- und Stahlindustrieller, Düsseldorf.

Gestaltwandel des Bauertums.
Dr. von ENGELBERG, Direktor der Badischen Landwirtschaftskammer, Karlsruhe.

Permanent Preventives of Unemployment.
Rev. JAMES MYERS, Industrial Secretary, Commission on the Church and Social Service, New York.

Kartelle, Konzerne, Trusts und Arbeitslosenproblem.
Dr. O. KLUG, Privatdozent an der Universität Genf.

L'Orthodoxie et la Vie économique.
S. BOULGAKOFF, Professeur à l'Institut théologique Orthodoxe, Paris.

Les Eglises et le Travail des Enfants.
Mina C. VALLETTE, Institut International de Christianisme Social, Genf.

Catholic Social Reform in the Third Republic.
Rev. Joseph F. FLETCHER, A.B., B.D., New York.

2. **The Churches and the welfare of Seamen.** *Studies and Documents.* English series No. 3, gratis.

3. **The Churches and Present-day Economic Problems.** *Studies and Documents.* English series No. 4. Price 6d. a copy or 20 cents. *I. C. F. Book Shop, 4 the Sanctuary, London,* S.W.I, or *the Social Institute, 2, rue de Montchoisy, Geneva.*

4. *Handbook of the Churches.* In three languages, price 3/– and 3.50 Swiss fr., pub. by *the International Christian Press Commission, Berlin-Steglitz, Beymestr. 8.*

5. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Continuation Committee, Chexbres, Switzerland, 1930. (With reports of the Commissions on Youth, Press, Churches and Labour, Cooperation, the Theologian's Commission, Reorganisation of the Secretariat. Also the new Constitution and Byelaws of the Council.) English, German and French editions.

All the publications mentioned in this letter may be obtained through the INSTITUTE.